

27 Years of Volunteer Service— and Counting

Forty-two-year-old Dave Eggenberger has been an active member of the Loyal Heights Advisory Council for 27 years. That's right, he has been a member since he was 15 years old!

During his tenure on the council, he has seen more than 20 center coordinators come and go. He's seen council membership rise and fall (and rise again), and the building both packed with people and programs and nearly empty.

Dave started in Parks coaching youth basketball. Since then, he served several terms as chair, vice-chair and treasurer of the advisory council, and has been ever present at Loyal Heights special events such as the annual Pancake Breakfast, Halloween Carnival and Spring Candy Hunt. Dave loves helping kids. He has been a chaperone on field trips including overnights at Camp Long. For the past several years, he has helped the Teen Development Leader with the Friday night Late Night Program.

Dave considers his biggest accomplishment as working with his father to spearhead construction of the Loyal Heights weight room and front desk projects. Since the completion of the weight room in 1997, thousands of people have enjoyed weight lifting and working out at the center.

Dave also loves the community where he has always lived. He graduated from Ballard High School and has lived in the Loyal Heights neighborhood all his life, once serving on the Ballard District Council for several years. In his "spare" time, he has worked for Northwest Caster and Equipment for the past 26 years.

Loyal Heights Coordinator Mike Brady has known Dave for 13 years and can't imagine the center without his energy and dedication. "Dave is one of the best," says Mike. "He's so flexible and fits in perfectly whether he's at an advisory council meeting or on a camp-out with kids. Every community center should be so lucky."

Check back in another 27 years, and you'll likely see Dave still working hard for the community center and his Loyal Heights neighbors.



Dave Eggenberger



Day camp kids at Bitter Lake CC.

Mayor Boosts Summer Day Camp Program

Thanks to a last-minute injection of funds from Mayor Greg Nickels, 300 children who were on a waiting list for scholarships were able to attend Seattle Parks and Recreation's Summer Day Camp Program.

Community center staff had been inundated with requests for scholarships since May, and demand quickly grew beyond available funding. The day camp program costs \$135 per child, per week. Parks offers 80 percent scholarships to families that qualify, reducing the cost to \$27 per child, per week.

"When more than 300 children were denied scholarships and unable to go to camp, it was obvious that we needed to find the money somewhere," said Mayor Nickels.

The cost for providing day camp scholarships for the 300 children on the waiting list is about \$179,000. With the approval and support of the City Council, excess funds from the current Families and Education Levy

will be transferred to Parks.

The day camp scholarship program is one of several extra-curricular programs already supported by the current Families and Education Levy.

Race and Social Justice Initiative: More than Lip Service

As soon as Mayor Nickels took office, he challenged City departments to respond to a question with far-reaching implications: how can city government make our services, programs, employment and contracting fully available to everyone?

Seattle Parks and Recreation is uniquely positioned to carry out the Mayor's Race and Social Justice Initiative. We are located in every neighborhood through our parks, community centers, pools, and environmental learning centers, and we serve our residents through myriad programs and special events.

We already do a great job at reaching out to the broad spectrum of community members. Each year we support more than 4,000 groups and thousands of individual volunteers; we conduct thousands of hours of public meetings in nearly every city neighborhood; and we welcome well over a million visitors to our parks and facilities. For many years, staff have been designing programs and opportunities for our diverse constituencies to enjoy.

More recently, in the South Park and Rainier Beach neighborhoods we are working on a "Communities that Care" project that helps close the educational achievement gap for high school students from diverse backgrounds. We also recently held a Commodities Fair for small business owners, including women- and minority-owned firms, to share information with Parks and City staff who are potential customers for their services and products.

Still, I know we can do more. The Mayor's initiative presents us with an opportunity to strengthen ties with diverse communities in Seattle. We especially want to include and create opportunities for people who have been underserved in the past—people of color, youth, seniors, low-income people and non-English speakers.

As a department, we will take a multi-pronged approach. We have convened a Race and Social Justice Leadership Team of 21 Parks employees from a variety of divisions and backgrounds to help us identify and implement outreach opportunities. These will include training and mentoring among our own staff, a large and diverse group of more than 1,000 people. We will also closely examine current services, programs and processes and make changes to support the goals of the initiative.

In short, we are committed to providing greater access, inclusion and opportunities for all Seattle residents. For more information on the Race and Social Justice Initiative please contact Christopher Williams, Operations Director, at 206-684-4136 or christopher.williams@seattle.gov



Ken Bounds, Superintendent

On the Move — Modernizing the Partnership

We are making great strides on the project to modernize the partnership among the Associated Recreation Council (ARC), Seattle Parks and Recreation, and the advisory councils. Here are just a few of the things that ARC and Parks have accomplished in the last few weeks:

- We held a series of four meetings with advisory council presidents at Hiawatha, Garfield, Carkeek Park and South Lake Union to discuss the modernization process and other key issues, answer questions, and solicit input and involvement. As always, the input in these meetings was very thoughtful and much appreciated.
- After interviewing several consultants, we selected Kathy Scanlan to work with us to help develop a strategic plan for the partnership. Kathy has extensive experience in strategic planning and has worked with a number of nonprofit organizations. We are very excited to have her expertise to help guide us as we develop our plan.
- We began working with Kathy to define the effort and to develop a tentative schedule for the project.

You'll be hearing from us frequently over the next few months as we continue the work on the strategic plan. We'll hold discussion groups with advisory council members to gather input about the partnership and the plan. We also plan to create a steering committee composed of Parks, ARC and advisory council representatives to oversee the development of the strategic plan.

This is an exciting time for our partnership – one of significant change and growth. I invite all advisory council members to attend the discussion group meetings and to become involved in this critical planning process.

— Anna Martin, Associated Recreation Council Board President

Advisory Councils Support Major Renovations

Advisory council support and leadership in recreation programming at Parks facilities are commonly known. Equally vital, but less publicized are the financial contributions some advisory councils provide to key capital improvements at their centers.

Two recent examples are the projects to build a North Teen Life Center and the redesign and overhaul of the Alki Bathhouse.

Construction began in July to renovate the former Meadowbrook Community Center space in Nathan Hale High School into the North Teen Life Center. The project, which



Alki Bathhouse under construction.

will provide various activity rooms, kitchen, and a staff office, is slated for completion later this year. The Meadowbrook Community Center Advisory Council is supporting this project through purchase of kitchen equipment and other

furnishings and equipment, allowing more project funds to be directed toward the renovation itself. The total budget is \$515,500 from the Pro Parks Levy.

The renovation of the Alki Bathhouse will provide a new multi-purpose space flanked by an art studio on one side and a pottery studio on the other. The Alki Community Center Advisory Council and the Friends of Alki Bathhouse have together contributed \$141,000, supplementing the \$412,000 base budget (from the Pro Parks Levy). The advisory council contribution will pay for amenities that had been previously cut from the project such as an outdoor shower, studio cabinets, a dormer, and other items.

"The Advisory Council really stepped up to the plate," said Lynn Sullivan, Parks Project Manager. "Their support enhanced the project and helped fulfill the vision of what the bathhouse could be."

Turning Things Around at Sand Point CC

Chuck Goven had fallen on hard times.

After working in the film and television industry in Los Angeles for a number of years, Chuck moved to Seattle to attend the University of Washington Film and Documentary Productions programs. But an unknown medical problem led to unemployment and a rehab program with the Veterans Administration. U.W. Medical Center doctors finally determined that Chuck had multiple sclerosis.

During his treatment at a U.W. rehabilitation clinic, Chuck moved to Santos Place, a transitional housing program at Sand Point Magnuson Park, administered by the Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI) in conjunction with the Sand Point Community Housing Association.

The good news is that Chuck is beginning to turn his life around through his work, several hours a



Chuck Goven

week, at Sand Point Community Center. The center and its advisory council hired Chuck as the building monitor soon after the center re-opened in March. When the building is officially closed, Chuck staffs the building during classes, events, and meetings. He also helps lock up Sand Point buildings after hours.

Center Coordinator Karla Withrow approached LIHI about the building monitor position, and Chuck stood out as the candidate with the most skills, training, and education that the job requires.

"Chuck is a great asset to the community center," enthuses Karla. "He provides good customer service and is very responsible. He is flexible and always ready to help out."

Parks Teams with EarthCorps, National Parks

By Belinda Chin and Dave Gilbertson

It's a chance of a lifetime for teens from Seattle community centers participating in a unique program that combines outdoor adventure, environmental stewardship and community service.

Seattle Parks and Recreation, National Park Service (NPS), and EarthCorps have worked together the last three summers to provide a dynamic program for urban teens that offers in-city park and national park experiences that develop students' job skills and connections to nature. Over the last two years teens from Alki, Ballard, Bitter Lake, Delridge, Garfield, Hiawatha, High Point, Loyal Heights, Rainier Beach, South Park and Van Asselt community centers were among the program participants.

North Cascades National Park piloted the first program in the summer of 2002 and continues to be an important partner. This summer, the program two more parks participated: Mt. Rainier National Park and San Juan Island National Historical National Park.

Community center teen development leaders and youth have completed numerous service projects, which can be fit into one-day field visits or overnight camping trips. Service projects last about three hours to ensure maximum productivity.

Among the project accomplishments:

- Teens removed roughly 2,000 square feet of exotic plants from the Cow Heaven Trail in North Cascades National Park.
- Program participants gathered, cleaned and

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Credits

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Parks Teams with EarthCorps, National Parks

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processed native seeds under the guidance of the National Park Service Wilderness Plant Propagation staff.

- Youth conducted campground human impact surveys at the Newhalem Campground in North Cascade Park.

While completing these projects, the young people learned about park science (including data collection and monitoring), ecological principles and environmental restoration techniques. They also learned the differences between native and non-native plants and the ecological significance of native plants. Teens experienced first-hand the importance of service, and career opportunities available in the National Parks Service. Participants will have opportunities to apply their learning at home in their local parks through restoration projects arranged by EarthCorps and Seattle Parks.

This project was made possible by a grant from the NPS-Public Land Corps and supporting funding from EarthCorps and Seattle Parks.



Teens work on service projects in national parks.

Community Center Projects

As many of you in the affected centers well know, the Community Center Levy projects are proceeding apace. For more information about these projects please visit www.seattle.gov/parks and click on Community Center Levy in the left margin. Here are a few updates:

- **Northgate Community Center:** The start of construction for the new Northgate community center, library and park has been delayed after construction bids came in about \$2 million higher than anticipated.

Parks and the Seattle Public Library and will rebid the project and will keep the public informed on its progress.

- **International District/Chinatown Community Center:** The official grand opening of the city's newest community center is set for Sept. 27. The new center in the International District is located in the second-phase building of the mixed-use International District Village Square, at 719 8th Ave. S. The International District Village Square II (IDVS II) project is being developed by the Seattle Chinatown-International District Preservation and Development Authority (SCIDPDA). Some community center programs will begin in August.
- **Southwest Community Center:** Construction will begin in August as anticipated. The center and pool are closed for the duration of construction.

Special Events

Aug. 19, 20, 21

"Grease" at Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center

This year's summer youth musical at Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center is the crowd-pleasing musical GREASE! in Seattle's Paramount Theatre. Matinee tickets cost \$1 and \$5 for evening shows. Youth tickets are two for one. Call 206-684-4757 for more information.



Teens rehearse for the big show.

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